

IMPORTANT SHUL CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Dear Congregants:

Our synagogue staff and leadership have been paying close attention to the rapid progression of events with the COVID-19 coronavirus. We have been in contact with JewishColumbus which created a Medical Advisory Committee comprised of local professionals to provide Columbus Jewish agencies and organizations with expert and professional guidance to navigate the difficult and complicated issues we are facing. Indeed, several of our own members are key participants on that committee.

Based on the urging of the Medical Advisory Committee, Governor DeWine's proclamations, and community leadership input, we are following the expert recommendations that urge social distancing as one of the best ways we can avoid spreading the virus. **We are sorry to report that the synagogue will be closed for at least the next three weeks for ALL services and public gatherings effective after Friday morning's minyan.** Tomorrow we will share information regarding the rescheduling of the event with Deborah Lipstadt originally to occur on April 2.

We will keep you updated on a regular basis. We also will endeavor to share inspiring weekly messages and thoughtful divrei torah via email.

This was a difficult choice to make and one that initially seemed almost unthinkable, until we saw the news unfolding at a very rapid rate. Indeed, we feel strengthened by the fact that Jewish communities worldwide have taken similar steps under the leadership of respected rabbinic authorities. We are certain this is the best choice for our precious congregation and our members. We are well aware that we do have regular and loyal participation from our more mature community and we are deeply concerned for their protection and well being and we take that responsibility most seriously.

At this time our dedicated office staff is still available to answer your questions and to provide for our members' spiritual needs as best possible under these trying circumstances. We pray for healing for all those suffering and that these steps will help to keep that number low.

Most Sincerely,

Julie Saar, President
Dave Philips, Immediate Past President
Kenny Steinman, Past President
Natalie Cohen, Past President
Randy Sokol, Vice President
Sarah-Rachel Sribnick, Vice President
Eva Fried, Secretary
Jerry Cabakoff, Treasurer

Additional information:

While appropriate hygiene steps have been well publicized, what has been less discussed is that from the vantage point of mental health and crisis management, it is important to consider 'trauma inoculation' or steps that each of us can take to prevent our anxiety and worry from turning into fear and panic. Panic is infectious and can ripple through our families and create an atmosphere of dread, particularly among children. Please [click here](#) for an article that addresses that concern, as well as how to talk to children about the coronavirus. This piece is from Rabbi Dr. Dovid Fox, Director of Interventions & Community Education at Project Chai, the crisis intervention, trauma and bereavement department of Chai Lifeline. Since 1987, Chai Lifeline's mission has been to restore the light of childhood to Jewish children whose innocence ended when cancer, life-threatening, or lifelong illness was diagnosed.

Parashat Ki Tisa

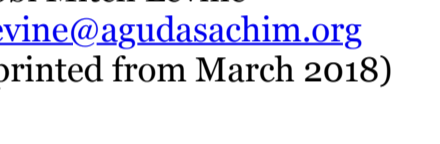


While Moses was off to receive the tablets, the people fell into worshipping a Golden Calf. Angry and disappointed, God threatens the people and makes Moses an incredible offer. God is prepared to annihilate the people and start fresh by making Moses the founder of a great nation (Exodus 32:10). Moses, however, responds only to God's threat. He completely ignores the offer to become the progenitor of a new people for God. What's this about?

God begins his outburst by declaring, "Leave me be!" (ibid.) Who is staying God's hand? The Midrash explains the situation may be compared to a king who has grown terribly angry with his badly misbehaving child. Infuriated, the king cries out, "Leave me be; I'm gonna smite him but good!" Standing just outside the door, the child's tutor reasons, "By saying 'Leave me be!' the king must expect me to overhear, intervene and prevent him from doing something drastic he may later regret." Immediately, the tutor barges in and calls for the king to exercise compassion and restraint, just as Moses does in pleading with God on behalf of his people.

From the perspective of the Bible, there is perhaps no person more important than Moses and no sin more destructive than idolatry. Maybe Moses could have opted for greater glory while allowing the people to get wacked. We may imagine similar circumstances, where a leader is sufficiently righteous to be tempted to go it alone without feeling dragged down by others who may seem aggravating and irredeemable. Moses's behavior demonstrates that true leadership involves resisting, even ignoring, such an easy way out. Being part of a community means hanging in together and participating in a shared destiny, even in the face of profound disappointment. Walking away shouldn't be an option unless we are sure we are better than Moses and that those letting us down are worse than idolaters.

B'yedidut (w/friendship),

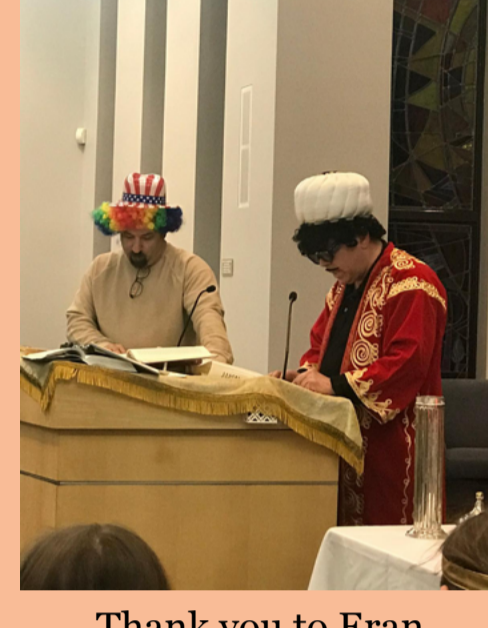


Rabbi Mitch Levine
mlevine@agudasachim.org
(reprinted from March 2018)

Click on a hyperlink below to go directly to that section

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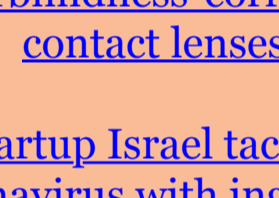
Pic of the Week



Thank you to Eran Rosenberg, Josh Feinberg, and CJDS students Ma'ayan Cohen, Michael Dill, Caleb Moses, Ruthie Moskowitz, Leon Rinkoff, Bram Rubin and Dovi Weiner for helping to read the Megillah this year.
Yasher Koach!

Israel - Current Events

The intention of providing these weekly news links is to share what seem to be informative and factual articles about Israel. These particular articles are not selected in order to espouse any particular political views; any views implied by or inferred from these articles are not an official view of Congregation Agudas Achim or its leadership.



[Israelis invent colorblindness-correcting contact lenses](#)

[Startup Israel tackles coronavirus with ingenuity and chutzpah](#)

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Contact Us

Congregation Agudas Achim
2767 E. Broad St.
Bexley, OH 43209
614-237-2747
www.agudasachim.org
info@agudasachim.org
[LIKE US ON FB!](#)

This Week's Shabbat Schedule

Candle lighting: 7:19 pm
Havdalah: 8:20 pm

There will be no services or classes at Agudas Achim this Shabbat.

Minyan Service Times - March 14-20

There will be no morning or evening services at Agudas Achim.

Simchas for the Week

Happy Birthday to: Jude Block, Steve Siegel, Shane Weisman, Harlan Schottenstein, Susan Tibor, Amy Dworin-Dahlman, Josh Feinberg, Juliann Garrett, Howard Schnitz, Neal Barkan, Yelena Zats, Gary Schottenstein, Neal Shapiro, Yakov Shvartsman, Rabbi Wendy Ungar, Lev Kucherski, Joy Soll, and Mila Spivakova.

Happy Anniversary to: Spike & Lois Tyler, Andrew & Shylee Grossman, Ken & Laura Clubok, Rabbi Wendy Ungar & Wendy Mohr, and Kalman & Wanda Dworin.



Yahrzeits this Week



This week we mark the following yahrzeits and remember:

Chane Solomon, Simon Tashayev, Dr. H. Victor Crespy, Nick Cooper, Jean Krupman, Chane Maybruck, Meyer Schottenstein, Lisa Shapiro, Alfred Tibor, Isadore Weiss, Lydia Gordon, Roberta Silberstein, Bernard Ruben, Ruth Glassman, Israel Kahn, Sarah Kerstein, Sonia Tverskaya, and Fred Yenkin.

Meal Train

Agudas Achim member Russ Abrams is having surgery on March 25. He won't be able to walk or drive, so please help him by signing up to take him a meal.

He is also looking for rides to/from shul on all Shabbatot once services resume at Agudas Achim. Please email Naomi to sign up to drive him to/from shul on Shabbat.



[Click here for the Meal Train for Russ Abrams.](#)

Thank you for your help!

Social Action at Agudas Achim

"Welcoming the Stranger" Shabbat - March 20 & 21

Agudas Achim joins with a nationwide effort by Jewish congregations to recognize and welcome immigrants and refugees in our communities. [Click here](#) for a special meditation that can be recited at home prior to lighting Shabbat candles on Friday night, March 20.

Agudas Achim Brotherhood's Bernard (Buzz) Kanter Campership Fund



The Agudas Achim Brotherhood is offering a camp scholarship for a 2020 Summer Camp Experience.

For the guidelines & application, [click here.](#)

For more information, email brotherhood@agudasachim.org.

Applications are due April 2, 2020.

Front Axle Farm 2020 CSA Program

Front Axle Farm
2020 CSA Program



Join our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program to receive a box of organic, freshly picked, and delicious vegetables from June through October.



Our Customers say:

- "Thanks for such beautiful boxes of vegetables. What a pleasure to pick up every week!"
- "Everything is super yummy"
- "We LOVED our veggies! The first night, my daughter announced, 'This meal is a 10!'"

Convenient pick up every Tuesday at Congregation Agudas Achim!

Options for our 20-week CSA Share:

Half Share - \$20 /week — \$400
Full Share - \$35 /week — \$700

Send any questions to cvan@frontaxlefarm.com, sign up at www.frontaxlefarm.com, and follow us on Facebook and Instagram!



If you require assistance to attend or participate in any synagogue program, please contact the shul office.

Around the Community

To view a list of **Community Events**, [click here.](#)

To learn more about creating a B'nei Tzedek Fund through JewishColumbus, [click here.](#)